# *Executive Proclamation*
# *State of South Dakota*
# *Office of the Governor*

***Whereas***, The great state of South Dakota and states across America are welcoming many new neighbors, friends, employees and citizens from countries and cultures throughout the world – people for whom English is not their native language; and,

***Whereas***, Americans have growing social, cultural and economic ties to the global community, offering great opportunities, but presenting new challenges as we seek to communicate with and understand our international partners from different language and cultural backgrounds; and,

***Whereas***, Studying other languages has been shown to contribute to increased cognitive skills, better academic performance and a greater understanding of others, while also providing life-long learning opportunities for people beyond school age; and,

***Whereas***, Proficiency in other languages enhances South Dakotans' career opportunities and provides employers with a workforce with skills that are necessary in an international marketplace; and,

***Whereas***, Developing skills in a new language fosters personal and intellectual growth in students while contributing to economic prosperity, national security and world stability; and,

***Whereas***, Language education in the 21st century includes a commitment to long study sequences of languages beginning in the early grades in order to enable students to develop the levels of proficiency needed to effectively communicate with people from other cultures at home or abroad; and,

***Whereas***, Language educators across the nation are working cooperatively to promote the benefits of language learning to students, parents, business, industry, health and social service leaders, and policy makers:

***Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds***, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the 2005-2006 academic year as

## *THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES*

in South Dakota.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State